



to eggs or young. The sauger lives an average of seven to eight years.

Habitats

interior rivers and streams; Mississippi River; Missouri River

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

western one-third of Iowa and eastern border

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

sauger

Stizostedion canadense

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Family:	Perciformes
Order:	Percidae

Features

A typical sauger is 13 to 15 inches long and weighs 2 1/2 pounds. The state record weighed 6 1/2 pounds and was 25 inches long. The back and sides of the sauger are brown and three or four dark "saddles" cross the back. The belly is white. White does not extend into the tail fin. The cheeks are covered with scales and teeth are present on the jaws. Dark half-moon spots are seen on the dorsal fin.

Natural History

The sauger is found in muddy rivers where it moves in loose groups near the bottom. Distribution in Iowa is limited mainly to the border rivers and lower reaches of their tributaries. It eats fish and insects. It ranges over a wide area and is active at night. It reaches maturity at age three to four years. It moves to tributary streams to spawn. Spawning occurs at night in April and May. The female deposits 32,000 to 83,000 eggs that are scattered over the bottom. Eggs hatch in seven to 18 days. No parental care is given